



ZERO BEAT

<http://hcra.org>

November 2019

Next Meeting: **Nov 1**

Skype with K1ZM, Jeff about the first Trans Atlantic contact.

November Meeting

Fox Hunt Alert!!!

We (HCRA) will continue to try and get together to fox hunt. This is a great way to practice with the antenna / attenuator that was built earlier. Larry has been emailing, posting on the FB page and web page with proposed dates—keep an eye out for new dates!!

Bring:

- 2m HT (full battery)
- Antenna adapter to go TO BNC from your HT
- Fox Hunt antenna
- Attenuator from the build class.

RSVP to W1AST@arrl.net

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November Meeting: This month we have a virtual visit about The Amazing Transatlantic Feat of 1901 by Marconi – K1ZM, Jeff via Skype as he is in PEI. He will tell us about the first wireless radio transmission between North America and Europe. Like the beginnings of all technological advances, the start was inefficient and primitive compared to what we have now. 4 tall antennas and 75 kilowatts to make that first transmission. 75 kilowatts—kinda puts that footwarmer (amplifier) you have under your desk in the shack look pretty small !!

Get your tickets to the HCRA / MTARA Holiday Party—they are on sale for a few more weeks. See Harold N1FTP for yours!!!

The Swap / Sell table is back in action!— Bring your old stuff, get some new to you stuff. Check in / mark your stuff when you get to the meeting.

It's contest season!! That period of time when summer stuff is about over, the bands open up a bit for winter, and we all sit snug and warm in our shacks. A few things to do now to tune up for winter operating:

- Walk down and check / seal all your outdoor connections. Make sure that your antenna(s) are stable, mounted well, and have a ground path.
- Do the same for your indoor connections—eliminate clutter behind the radio / amp. Check your grounds. Clear off a bit more space, and find a place for your beverage that isn't above the radio!
- Update your calendar, read the rules, know your call response, get your logging program ready. Read over the info in last months ZB from Quicksilver radio. Each contest may be very different—know how to make those contacts quickly and smooth. Other operators will appreciate it!

73, John N1JIE

Hey—if you are going somewhere in radio world—whether it's to HRO in Nashua, ARRL headquarters, Boxboro or field day, and you have room for a passenger—let folks know on the FB page or Larry W1AST has agreed to be a clearinghouse via email (W1AST@arrl.net) for rideshares. If you are looking for a ride—the same applies. If ya don't ask, ya don't get ;-)

Let's look out for each other, and help others participate in our hobby. Thanks Larry for helping by being a contact point.

FROM THE SHACK

LARRY KRAINSON W1AST



Have you ever noticed what an amazing hobby we have in Ham Radio? I doubt there is any other hobby that has so many aspects and variations of it that all ties it together as one hobby. There's something of interest to nearly any one.

We all work hard at trying to share ham radio with many that we know. When those people become hams, you can't just leave them on their own. They still need your guidance in getting on the radio, buying a rig, getting an antenna and so on to build the hobby up to where they can use it and have fun with it. Too often you hear of new hams that have just been licensed and not knowing what step to take next.

This is where you and I step in. Invite them to your shack at home or your mobile shack and demo ham radio again and coach them into getting on the air. We all remember that hump of nervousness with the first few contacts. Then the excitement of the next contacts and then being on our way to making many more. Help the new hams to accomplish this and start them on their way to an exciting life in Ham Radio.

What better time is there than now to invite new hams to your shack. If you chase DX, love making new contacts, working new stations, new states, counties, grids or whatever. The contest season has just started and now is a great time to start the fun! Dxpeditons to rare countries are more common near DX contest time. Pitcairn is a good example and one that I'm chasing now and with the DX Contest this weekend, I hope to work them and others. But you can also invite new hams and would be hams to your shack and help them to build that excitement too.

But there are those that get their license and for their own reasons don't get on the air and don't participate in the activities and don't build and don't do other things. Then quite possibly Ham Radio is not for them. Whether it be pumpkin carving, stamp collecting or whatever, there are other activities out there better suited for them. I'm sure most of us know someone like this.

But for the rest of us, there are plenty of aspects that Ham Radio offers and we also make many great friends along the way. The people you meet and spend time with in Ham Radio are one aspect I truly enjoy too. All of my closest friends are hams and it has been that way for many years. And why not, as I share my love of ham radio with them plus my other interests such as camping, kayaking and sense of adventure. Much of it tied back in to Ham Radio. Sharing that with others helps build my interests even more.

The HCRA Board Needs Your Help. We thought we were starting strong last June with a newly elected board. New people coming on board with new ideas and wanting to help keep the club going strong into the future. Three new board members were elected and by October two of those have resigned from the board for personal reasons. Those two are the easiest positions on the board too. One is program and that is something I myself have been doing for many years and continue to do even now. The HCRA meetings are filled thru June 2020. But we need voting board members. Taking the position of Program can be simply a voting position that we need with your thoughts and comments. The same goes for At Large. Basically this year, two positions with out direct responsibility except for needing to make board meetings, voice your opinion and attending meetings and club functions. Is this you? Can you step up and take the position at least thru June 2020 and the next election?

One position is now filled with Bob; WA1OJN volunteering to join until at least the elections in June. Thank you Bob for volunteering! Can we get at least one more?

Just because the club is running strong with great meetings and activities, does not mean that the need for constant ideas and people to run the board are not needed. We need your help. How about a trial run from November thru the June elections? Consider it and get back to me.

FROM THE SHACK CONTINUED

It's not too early to start thinking about the joint HCRA-MTARA Holiday Party. Just \$20 per person gets you a great meal and conversation with friends. Tickets are on sale until a few days before Thanksgiving. We'll have tickets at the HCRA meeting on Nov 1. This year we have a guest speaker in Fred, K1VR who is the ARRL New England Division Director. Fred is going to give us a 30 minute talk that should be very interesting and informative. I'm sure you'd rather hear Fred talk than either of us club presidents. His talk will be interesting to all. Come and join us on December 1st at the K of C in Chicopee at 1pm. Plus there will be a number of raffle prizes of interest to all. I hope to see you there!

There is lots of exciting Ham Radio and HCRA activities coming up. Just because winter is coming, doesn't mean you hibernate too. There is a few of us that are using DMR and occasionally talking on the HCRA talk group. Monday nights at 7:30 pm local on 28.375 is the casual HCRA 10 meter net. Yes! It is back. Come join us and check in. We've had check ins from Chicopee, Springfield, Westfield, Hadley, Longmeadow, West Springfield and a few Connecticut towns plus a few other Massachusetts towns. Join us every Monday night!

November 1 is the next meeting and it should be fascinating. It's all about the fantastic trans-Atlantic wireless feat that really established Marconi as the man to be back then for wireless. Everything you use that's wireless these days really goes back to Marconi. Learn more about this from Jeff, K1ZM joins us from Prince Edward Island on Nov. 1st. This meeting will start promptly at 7:30 and is not to be missed!

It's not too soon to start thinking about the ARRL 10m contest in December. This is a contest you work from home and when you submit your score, you credit the Hampden County Radio Association and your scores are added together for a club score. This is always a fun contest and is a mix of ssb and cw. Even with the bands being meh, it's still fun to make some contacts and see what you can do. You can read up on it here: <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter> The contest runs December 14-15th this year. Plan to participate!

Soon after that in early 2020 is Winter Field Day: <https://www.winterfieldday.com/> While the club does not participate in this, you certainly can from home or the field.

HCRA may be doing a demonstration at the Easthampton Winterfest again this year if there is interest. It is on February 8, 2020. It was a lot of fun last year.

A good source for Ham Radio contests is the Contest Calendar: <https://www.contestcalendar.com>

Or the ARRL Contest Calendar with contests and operating activities: <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

73 for now and hope to see you at the November meeting and hear you on the air!

Larry, W1AST

SCHEDULED MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS:

 **September**



Everything you wanted to know about Mag Loop Antennas by Ted Robinson, K1QAR

OCTOBER



Rich Collins, K2UPS of the Long Island CW Group & showcase his key collection

 **November**

The Amazing Transatlantic Feat of 1901 by Marconi – K1ZM, Jeff via Skype as he is in PEI

 **DECEMBER**

The annual HCRA / MTARA Holiday party

 **JANUARY**

Bob Hassett Springfield emergency preparedness & EOC facility

 **FEBRUARY**

Bob, K1YO – ARES and it's recent come back in Western MA

 **MARCH**

Rob Macedo KC1DY talks all about Skywarn and how important it is for weather tracking

 **April**

Show & Tell — members bring in their projects and show them off!!

 **MAY**

Marty Sullaway, NN1C: Team Exuberance – teens and contesting

 **JUNE**

Elections, Field Day and more?

ARRL STUFF

Things are happening in the world of Amateur Radio. ARRL is our advocate for Government, education and organization. I hope everyone that is a member of HCRA is also a member of ARRL.

Newsletters / emails

ARRL has several topical newsletters covering a variety of topics that come out via email. Much like the podcasts, they are update level information letters that go over current information or changes going on in the ARRL world. As a member, you setup the email list in “myARRL” at https://www.arrl.org/myarrl-account-management#!/edit-info-email_subscriptions

Bi-weekly contest, W1AW bulletins, ARES updates, Section news, propagation and DX news are some of the ones I get. They are just quick updates to keep you informed, quick and easy to read.

Periodical archive and search.

So, you heard from an Elmer that there was an article in QST when he first started that helped him, but he doesn't remember when. No problem—Looking for an article? Search QST, QEX, NCJ, and ham radio. Registered members may download QST articles from 1915 to December 2011. ham radio, owned by CQ Communications, Inc, is available on CD-ROM in the ARRL Store.

Awards

All those awards that people talk about when Hams get together—especially the DXCC—ARRL administers most of them. Worked All States—WAS / Worked All Continents—WAC are two that are a good challenging start. A bit difficult from up here in W1 land with current band conditions (HI and Antarctica are a tough nut barefoot) but on that rare night, when radio waves bounce.... Well—you could get lucky.

One of our members was just posting on the FB group—”99 worked and 96 confirmed on 160. I'm so close I can taste it!” Go for it Nick!!

Membership is just \$49/yr, less than a weekly coffee at Dunks...

To learn more about membership, and how it can help you—<http://www.arrl.org/membership>

Clublog update: Clublog can be accessed at <https://clublog.org/league.php> Signup is free, and there are a number of ways to lookup information. Give it a try.

Your Log

DXCC Charts

Timelines

QSL Charts

Zone Charts

Log Inspector

Log Matching

League Tables

DXCC Leagues

Zone Leagues

Club Leagues

CDXC Challenges

Super League

Uniques League

Tools

DX Cluster

Log Search

Call Tester

Most Wanted

DXCC Analysis

Propagation

Great Circle Maps

LoTW Sync

ADIF Diff

QSL Archive

DXCC Leagues

The leagues are rebuilt once per day. Only callsigns active in the last 12 months are included in the league tables. The maximum size of a league is 2000 participants.

☐ No Mode Filter
 ☐ CW
 ☐ Phone
 ☐ Data

☐ Rank by DXCCs
 ☐ Rank by slots
 Rank by band: Totals ▼

☒ 160M
 ☒ 80M
 ☒ 60M
 ☒ 40M
 ☒ 30M
 ☒ 20M
 ☒ 17M
 ☒ 15M
 ☒ 12M
 ☒ 10M
 ☒ 6M

☐ Current entities
 ☐ Current and deleted
 ☐ Worked
 ☐ Confirmed

☐ No Date Filter
 ☐ 2019
 ☐ 2018
 ☐ Last 12 months

Filter by club/continent: HCR - Hampden County Radio Association ▼

Generate DXCC League

League for HCR - Hampden County Radio Association

Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	NU/O	18	141	9	288	238	326	271	322	230	308	4	335	2132	31 yrs
2	N1VQ-3	26	134	0	178	111	308	266	314	232	256	2	329	1817	40 yrs
3	KK1W-1	120	177	7	280	202	303	288	274	211	231	20	326	2073	43 yrs
4	N1FG	0	111	0	195	219	219	239	204	138	71	14	285	1410	4 yrs
5	W1PY-1	34	100	0	178	83	228	199	231	128	204	3	283	1386	9 yrs
6	K1VOI	5	54	2	103	49	198	138	159	86	142	3	245	917	18 yrs
7	KK1X	19	95	32	165	108	181	86	200	25	191	4	239	1096	22 yrs
8	N1TA-3	106	138	0	181	20	195	11	182	8	125	0	235	987	17 yrs
9	K1NZ-1 *	100	127	80	147	154	148	90	104	16	53	1	213	968	8 yrs
10	AB1WT	2	32	1	51	4	120	122	124	82	88	1	211	807	5 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	W1AST-1	2	48	9	94	23	180	96	119	7	120	7	198	683	10 yrs
12	NT1K-2	3	49	2	101	17	174	39	137	45	122	1	190	600	9 yrs
13	N1FTF *	0	7	0	59	0	184	44	114	16	109	1	180	514	10 yrs
14	WD1S-2	49	57	1	115	23	148	40	95	11	98	2	176	839	7 yrs
15	AB1XW-1	0	7	1	75	22	110	42	107	29	94	0	144	487	7 yrs
16	AB1ZJ	0	0	0	14	0	34	0	0	1	0	0	43	49	3 yrs
17	KB1V5X	0	2	0	4	0	27	4	1	0	2	0	30	40	3 yrs

You can link to your club here: <https://clublog.org/league.php?club=189>

This is the clublog with open dates—basically a history from the start of each persons log. As you can see, many of the top members have many years on the air.

Info from 10/26/19

DXCC Leagues

The leagues are rebuilt once per day. Only callsigns active in the last 12 months are included in the league tables. The maximum size of a league is 2000 participants.

<input type="checkbox"/> No Mode Filter	<input type="radio"/> CW	<input type="radio"/> Phone	<input type="radio"/> Data
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Rank by DXCCs	<input type="radio"/> Rank by slots	Rank by band: Totalis ▼	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 160M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 80M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 40M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8M			
<input type="radio"/> Current entities		<input type="radio"/> Current and deleted	<input type="radio"/> Worked
<input type="radio"/> No Date Filter		<input type="radio"/> 2019	<input type="radio"/> Confirmed
		<input type="radio"/> 2018	<input type="radio"/> Last 12 months
Filter by club/continent:		HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association ▼	

League for HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association

Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	8	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	KKIW-1	65	58	0	90	76	58	47	28	4	6	1	176	429	43 yrs
2	KK1NZ+1 *	68	93	41	103	103	119	68	60	10	8	1	175	874	8 yrs
3	NF1G	0	48	0	108	102	100	109	92	44	11	4	169	818	4 yrs
4	NU1O	0	11	0	86	20	153	39	32	2	17	0	168	346	31 yrs
5	KX1X	5	49	32	113	98	103	52	52	5	9	1	141	517	22 yrs
6	WIAT+1	2	19	0	40	4	91	28	15	1	1	2	101	201	10 yrs
7	NV1Q-V	7	32	0	82	17	85	4	25	2	1	0	98	235	40 yrs
8	K1VOI	4	14	0	40	7	82	23	20	1	3	0	88	174	18 yrs
9	NT1K-2	0	15	0	30	8	66	2	0	0	2	1	79	124	9 yrs
10	AB1WT	1	8	0	7	0	22	12	15	1	5	0	42	89	5 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	8			
11	W1PY-1	0	3	0	17	0	23	0	2	0	2	0	35	47	9 yrs
12	AB1ZJ	0	0	0	12	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	32	38	3 yrs
13	KB1VSX	0	1	0	2	0	9	0	1	0	1	0	10	14	3 yrs
14	WD1S-2	2	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	3	7	7 yrs
15	AB1KW-1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	7 yrs

You can link to your club here: <https://clublog.org/league.php?club=189>

This is the clublog for 2019. You can see a different order of participants. But also some newer Hams getting active—awesome!!!

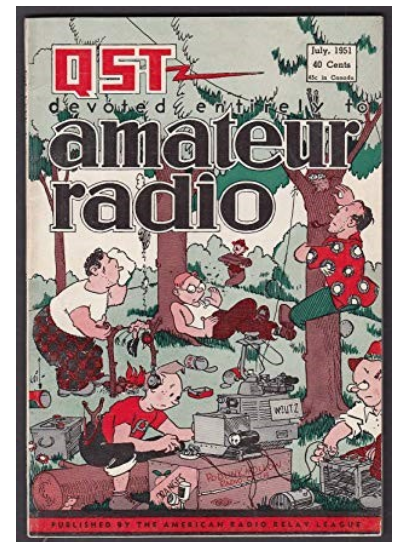
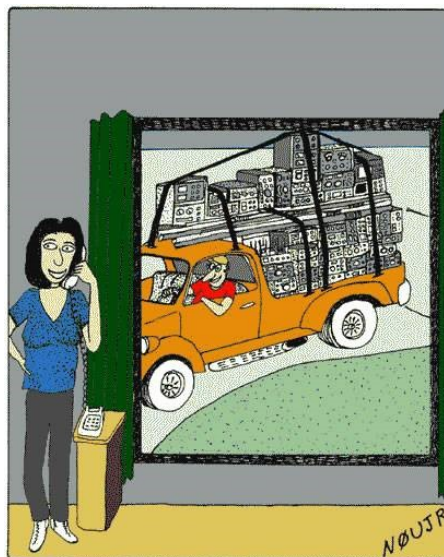
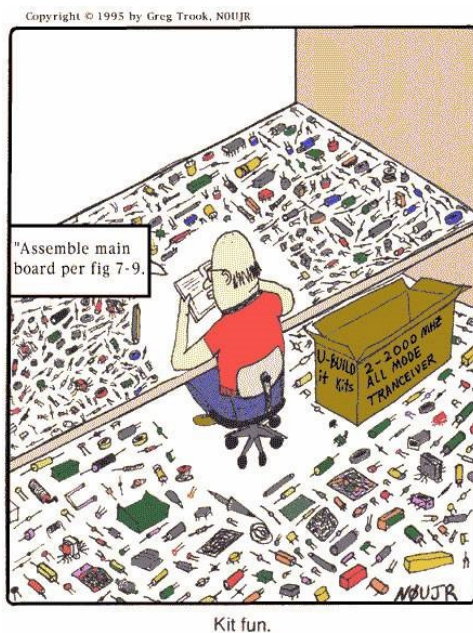
A bit ah humah :-)

shamelessly collected from the internet

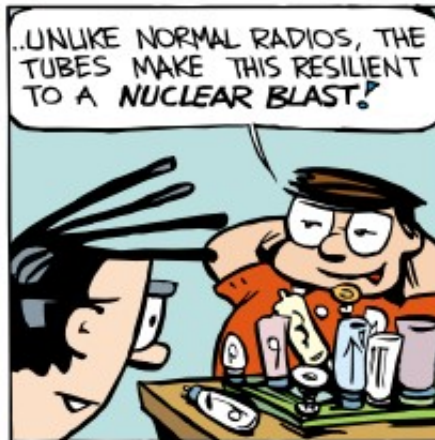
A reward of 500 microfarads is offered for the information leading to the arrest of Hop-A-Long Capacity. This unrec-tified criminal escaped from a western primary cell where he had been clamped in ions awaiting the gauss chamber.

He is charged with the induction of an 18 turn coil named Milli Henry who was found choked and robbed of valua-ble joules. He is armed with a carbon rod and is a potential killer. Capacity is also charged with driving dc motor over a wheatstone bridge and refusing to let the band-pass.

If encountered, he may offer series of resistance. The Electromotive Force spent the night searching for him in a magnetic field, where he had gone to earth. They had no success and believed he had returned ohm via a short cir-cuit



Return to Zero



EEWeb.com

DOTS & DASHES:

Things I can't think where to put, but are interesting.

INTERESTING HAM RADIO WEB SITE:

As we start on the Contest Season—here are the usual, and some other places to get contest info:

ARRL: <http://www.arrl.org/contests> (Major world and ARRL contests)

WA7BNM Contest Page: <https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php> (lots of listings, with links)

NG3K Contest Page: <https://www.ng3k.com/Contest/> (more links)

There are several online videos and tutorials that will help beginners get into contesting. One of the larger clubs in the region—Nashua Area Radio Society (N1FD.ORG) has some good info, and as a club, are active in contesting. Start here: <https://www.n1fd.org/2018/09/26/contesting-primer/>

As usual, there is a lot of info on the internet—and a lot of opinions, Use your personal filters for things that don't seem right—and talk to some of our contesting hams at the club. Enjoy the contest season, and don't spill the coffee on the power supply!!

AREA SWAP/HAMFESTS:

Not any listed for our region (New England) for a while. There will be several (including the usual one at Castle of Knights) after the holidays.

UPCOMING CONTESTS (just a few...)

Ongoing (all year)

Jan 1-Dec 31	Canada POTA (all year)	https://cnpota.ca/	All
Jan 1-Dec 31	US Islands 25th ann (all yr)	http://usislands.org/	All

October

Nov 16-17	Int'l EME contest—week 3	International	http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest
Dec 14-15	10 Meter Contest	International	http://www.arrl.org/10-meter

Many more contests listed at: <http://www.arrl.org/contests> or <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

Don't forget special event stations— <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations> These are fun contacts, usually with a special QSL card or certificate.

Local happenings

Sundays: 0845: Western Mass Emergency Net 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

First Monday: Southwick Regional RACES Drill, 1845, 146.49 Simplex

Mondays: 1930: HCRA 10m Net 28.375

Tuesdays: 1930-2000: 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R - Hampshire County Emergency Net

Wednesdays: 1930: MTARA Info net 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R - includes NTS Net

2000: MTARA Swap net: 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

2000: MTARA Simplex Net - starts on 146.94 - PL 127.3, then goes to 146.42 direct (simplex) Usually starts immediately following the swap net.

Thursdays: 2100: Weather Net (Roger, K1PAI Net Control), 1st Thursday of every month: 147.090 MHz, All other Thursdays: 147.000, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

2nd and 4th Fridays: 1200: BB's (Brown Baggers Luncheon)
Munich House
13 Center Street
Chicopee, MA 01013

Expect between 6 and 12 attendees every Friday. Good food, great company!

Join the ARRL or renew your membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

- QST Magazine
- Members-Only Web Services
- Technical Information Service
- Member Discounts
- Outgoing QSL Service
- Continuing Education
- ARRL as an Advocate
- Regulatory Information Branch
- Public Relations for Amateur Radio
- ARRL Field Organization
- ARRL-sponsored contests
- Operating Awards
- Local Clubs
- Amateur Radio Emergency Service
- Hamfests and Conventions
- Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Program



<http://www.arrl.org/membership>

HCRA contact list

President, Larry Krainson W1AST
w1ast@arrl.net

Vice-President, Vanessa Oquendo W1IRL
webmaster@hcra.org

Treasurer, Juergen Malner NV1Q
nv1q@arrl.net

Secretary, Harold Woering N1FTP
n1ftp@yahoo.com

Programs, **Vacant**

Membership, John Plaster K1VOI
k1voi_jp@charter.net

Technical, Najm Choueiry AB1ZA
njc2@cox.net

At Large, **Vacant**

Newsletter, John Ewell N1JIE
n1jie@arrl.net

Web Page, Vanessa Oquendo W1IRL
webmaster@hcra.org

There are openings on the Board—please contact a Board member if you are interested in becoming more involved in the club.

Club meetings & VE sessions

1st Friday of the month 7:30 PM, HCRA Club Meeting, Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech St. Holyoke MA 01040 (no meetings held in July or August.)
<http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

3rd Friday of the month 7:30 PM, MTARA Club meeting, Red Cross building, [150 Brookdale Dr. Springfield, Mass.](#) (no meetings held in July or August)

4th Friday of the month 6:00 PM, Technician, General, and Extra Class License Exams, Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech Street, Holyoke, Mass. Hosted by the Western Mass VE Team (WMVET). Contact: David Cote, w1fab@arrl.net

Second Monday of the month 7:00 PM, Franklin County Amateur Radio Club meeting, Greenfield Community College, East Bldg. Rm 110 (no meetings held in July, August, December—check website) <http://www.fcarc.org/>

4th Monday of February, May, August, November 7:00 PM, FCARC VE Exams, <http://www.fcarc.org/>



**Here is your exciting copy
of Zero Beat!**

**Hampden County Radio Association
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, MA 01030-0562**